

George Washington Papers, Series 2, Letterbooks 1754-1799

THIRD ANNUAL ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

October 25, 1791.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

I meet you, upon the present occasion, with the feelings which are naturally inspired by a strong impression of the prosperous situation of our common Country, and by a persuasion equally strong that the labours of the present⁴⁵ Session, which has just commenced, will, under the guidance of a spirit no less prudent than patriotic, issue in measures, conducive to the stability and increase of national prosperity.

Numerous as are the Providential blessings which demand our grateful acknowledgments; the abundance with which another year has again rewarded the industry of the husbandman is too important to escape recollection.

Your own observations, in your respective situations, will have satisfied you of the progressive state of Agriculture, Manufactures, Commerce and Navigation: In tracing their causes, you will have remarked, with particular pleasure, the happy effects of that revival of confidence, public as well as private, to which the Constitution and Laws of the United States have so eminently contributed: And you will have observed, with no less interest, new and decisive proofs of the increasing reputation and credit of the Nation. But you nevertheless, cannot fail to derive satisfaction from the confirmation of these circumstances, which will be disclosed, in the several official

45. Richardson's *Messages and Papers of the Presidents* omits the word "present."

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communications, that will be made to you in the course of your deliberations.

The rapid subscriptions to the Bank of the United States, which completed the sum allowed to be subscribed, in a single day, is among the striking and pleasing evidences which present themselves, not only of confidence in the Government, but of resource in the community.

In the interval of your recess due attention has been paid to the execution of the different objects which were specially provided for by the laws and Resolutions of the last Session.

Among the most important of these is the defence and security of the Western Frontiers. To accomplish it on the most humane principles was a primary wish.

Accordingly, at the same time that treaties have been provisionally concluded, and other proper means used to attach the wavering, and to confirm in their friendship, the well-disposed tribes of Indians; effectual measures have been adopted to make those of a hostile description sensible that a pacification was desired upon terms of moderation and justice.

These measures having proved unsuccessful, it became necessary to convince the refractory of the power of the United States to punish their depredations. Offensive operations have therefore been directed; to be conducted however, as consistently as possible with the dictates of humanity. Some of these have been crowned with full success, and others are yet depending. The expeditions which have been completed were carried on under the authority, and at the expense of the United States by the Militia of Kentucke; whose enterprise, intripidity and good conduct, are entitled to peculiar commendation.

Overtures of peace are still continued to the deluded

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Tribes, and considerable numbers of individuals belonging to them, have lately renounced all further opposition, removed from their former situations, and placed themselves under the immediate protection of the United States.

It is sincerely to be desired that all need of coercion, in future, may cease; and that an intimate intercourse may succeed; calculated to advance the happiness of the Indians, and to attach them firmly to the United States.

In order to this it seems necessary: That they should experience the benefits of an impartial administration⁴⁶ of justice. That the mode of alienating their lands the main source of discontent and war, should be so defined and regulated, as to obviate imposition, and, as far as may be practicable, controversy concerning the reality, and extent of the alienations which are made. That commerce with them should be promoted under regulations tending to secure an equitable deportment towards them, and that such rational experiments should be made, for imparting to them the blessings of civilization, as may, from time to time suit their condition. That the Executive of the United States should be enabled to employ the means to which the Indians have been long accustomed for uniting their immediate Interests with the preservation of Peace. And that efficacious provision should be made for inflicting adequate penalties upon all those who, by violating their rights, shall infringe the Treaties, and endanger the peace of the Union.

A System corrisponding with the mild principles of Religion and Philanthropy towards an unenlightened race of Men, whose happiness materially depends on the conduct of the

46. Richardson has "dispensation."

United States, would be as honorable to the national character as conformable to the dictates of sound policy.

The powers specially vested in me by the Act laying certain duties on distilled spirits, which respect the subdivisions of the districts into Surveys, the appointment of Officers,

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and the assignment of compensations, have likewise been carried into effect. In a matter in which both materials and experience were wanting to guide the calculation, it will be readily conceived that there must have been difficulty in such an adjustment of the rates of compensation as would conciliate a reasonable competency with a proper regard to the limits prescribed by the law. It is hoped that the circumspection, which has been used will be found in the result to have secured the last of the two objects; but it is probable, that with a view to the first, in some instances, a revision of the provision will be found adviseable.

The impressions with which this law has been received by the community, have been, upon the whole, such as were to be expected among enlightened and well-disposed Citizens, from the propriety and necessity of the measure. The novelty, however of the tax, in a considerable part of the United States, and a misconception of some of its provisions, have given occasion, in particular places to some degree of discontent. But it is satisfactory to know that this disposition yields to proper explanations and more just apprehensions of the true nature of the law. and I entertain a full confidence, that it will, in all, give way to motives which arise out of a just sense of duty, and a virtuous regard to the public welfare.

If there are any circumstances, in the law, which consistently with its main design, may be so varied as to remove any well intentioned objections, that may happen

to exist, it will consist with a wise moderation to make the proper variations. It is desirable on all occasions, to unite with a steady and firm adherence to constitutional and necessary Acts of Government, the fullest evidence of a disposition, as far as may be practicable, to consult the wishes of every part of the Community, and to lay the foundations of the public administration in the affection⁴⁷ of the people.

Pursuant to the authority contained in the several Acts on that subject, a district of ten miles square for the permanent seat of the Government of the United States has been

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fixed, and announced by proclamation; which district will comprehend lands on both sides of the River Potomack, and the towns of Alexandria and George Town. A City has also been laid out agreeably to a plan which will be placed before Congress: And as there is a prospect, favoured by the rate of sales which have already taken place, of ample funds for carrying on the necessary public buildings, there is every expectation of their due progress.

The completion of the Census of the Inhabitants, for which provision was made by law, has been duly notified (excepting in one instance in which the return has been informal, and another in which it has been omitted or miscarried) and the returns of the Officers, who were charged with this duty, which will be laid before you, will give you the pleasing assurance that the present population of the United States borders on four Millions of persons.

It is proper also to inform you that a further loan of two millions and a half of Florins has been completed in Holland; the terms of which are similar to those of the one last announced, except as to a small reduction of charges. Another on like terms, for six Millions of Florins, had been set on foot under circumstances that assured immediate completion.

Gentlemen of the Senate:

Two treaties, which have been provisionally

47. Richardson makes this word "affections."

concluded with the Cherokees and Six Nations of Indians, will be laid before you for your consideration and ratification.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

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In entering upon the discharge of your legislative trust, you must anticipate with pleasure, that many of the difficulties, necessarily incident to the first arrangements of a new Government, for an extensive Country, have been happily surmounted by the zealous, and judicious exertions of your predecessors, in co-operation with the other branch of the legislature. The important objects, which remain to be accomplished, will, I am persuaded, be conducted upon principles equally comprehensive, and equally well calculated for the advancement of the general weal.

The time limited for receiving subscriptions to the loans proposed by the Act making provision for the debt of the United States having expired, statements from the proper department will, as soon as possible, apprise you of the exact result. Enough, however is already known, to afford an assurance that the views of that Act have been substantially fulfilled. The subscription in the domestic debt of the United States, has embraced by far the greatest proportion of that debt; affording at the same time proof of the general satisfaction of the public Creditors with the System which has been proposed to their acceptance, and of the spirit of accommodation to the convenience of the Government with which they are actuated. The subscriptions in the debts of the respective States, as far as the provisions of the law have permitted, may be said to be yet more general. The part of the debt of the United States, which remains unsubscribed, will naturally engage your further deliberations.

It is particularly pleasing to me to be able to

announce to you, that the revenues which have been established, promise to be adequate to their objects; and may be permitted, if no unforeseen exigency occurs, to supercede, for the present, the necessity of any new burthens upon our Constituents.

An Object which will claim your early attention, is, a provision for the current service of the ensuing year, together with such ascertained demands upon the Treasury as require to be immediately discharged; and such casualties as may have arisen in the execution of the

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public business, for which no specific appropriations may have yet been made; of all which a proper estimate will be laid before you.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives:

I shall content myself with a general reference to former communications for several objects, upon which the urgency of other affairs has hitherto postponed any definite resolution. Their importance will recall them to your attention; and I trust that the progress already made in the most arduous arrangements of the Government, will afford you leisure to resume them with advantage.

There are, however, some of them of which I cannot forbear a more particular mention. These are, the Militia; the Post-Office and Post-roads; the Mint; Weights and Measures; a provision for the sale of the vacant lands of the United States.

The first is certainly an object of primary importance, whether viewed in reference to the national security, to the satisfaction of the community, or to the preservation of order. In connection with this, the establishment of competent Magazines and Arsenals, and the fortification of such places as are peculiarly important and vulnerable, naturally present themselves to consideration. The safety of the United States, under Divine protection, ought to rest on the basis of systematic and solid arrangements; exposed as little as possible to the hazard of

fortuitous circumstances.

The importance of the Post-Office and Post-Roads, on a plan sufficiently liberal and comprehensive, as they respect the expedition, safety and facility of communication, is increased by the instrumentality in diffusing a knowledge of the laws and proceedings of the government; which, while it contributes to the security of the people, serves also to guard them against the effects of misrepresentation and misconception. The establishment

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of additional cross-posts, especially to some of the important points in the Western and Northern parts of the Union, cannot fail to be of material Utility.

The disorders in the existing currency, and especially the scarcity of small change, a scarcity so peculiarly distressing to the poorer classes, strongly recommend the carrying into immediate effect the resolution already entered into concerning the establishment of a Mint. Measures have been taken, pursuant to that Resolution, for procuring some of the most necessary Artists, together with the requisite Apparatus.

An uniformity in the weights and measures of the Country is among the important objects submitted to you by the Constitution, and if it can be derived from a standard at once invariable and universal, must be no less honorable to the public Councils than conducive to the public convenience.

A provision for the sale of the vacant lands of the United States is particularly urged, among other reasons, by the important considerations that they are pledged as a fund for reimbursing the public debt; that if timely and judiciously applied, they may save the necessity of burthening our citizens with new taxes for the extinguishment of the principal; and that being free to discharge the principal but in a limited proportion no opportunity ought to be lost for availing the public of its right.⁴⁸

48. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The last paragraph was suggested by Jefferson, a press copy of which, under date of October 23, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On October 28 the Members of the House of Representatives proceeded to the President's house where the Speaker delivered the reply of the House to the addresses of the President, who replied briefly and formally. Both these addresses and reply are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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On October 31 the Members of the Senate proceeded to the President's house where the Vice President delivered the address of the Senate in reply to the addresses of the President. To this the President replied formally. Both this address and the reply are entered in the "Letter Book."

To THE SENATE

United States, October 26, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate: I have directed the Secretary of War, to lay before you for your consideration, all the papers relative to the negotiations with the Cherokee Indians, and the treaty concluded with that tribe, on the and day of July last,⁴⁹ by the Superintendent of the Southern district; and I request your advice whether I shall ratify the same.

I also lay before you the instructions to Colonel Pickering, and his conferences with the six Nations of Indians. These conferences were for the purpose of conciliation, and at a critical period to withdraw those Indians to a greater distance from the theatre of war, in order to prevent their being involved therein.

It might not have been necessary to have requested your opinion on this business, had not the Commissioner, with good intentions, but incautiously, made certain ratifications of lands, unauthorized by his instructions, and unsupported by the Constitution.

It therefore became necessary to disavow the transaction explicitly, in a letter written by my orders to the Governor of New York, on the 17th of August last.

The Speeches to the Cornplanter, and other Seneka Chiefs, the instructions to Colo. Procter⁵⁰ and his report, and other messages and directions are laid before you for your information, and as evidences that all proper lenient measures preceded the exercise of coercion.

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The letters to the Chief of the Creeks, are also laid before you, to evince that the requisite steps have been taken, to produce a full compliance with the treaty made with that nation on the 7th. of August 1790.⁵¹

49. November 10 the Senate ratified this treaty.

50. Col. Thomas Procter.

51. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

A question of official etiquette respecting the visits of Ministers having been raised in the Senate it was referred to the President on October 24, whereupon the following memorandum was entered in the "Letter Book" (under date of October 26) by Tobias Lear:

"On the morning of this day the President requested Mr. Butler (who had to pass by his house) to give him a call on his way to the Senate Chamber; and in this interview the President informed Mr. Butler, that after the best consideration which time and circumstances had allowed him to bestow on the subject of etiquette, which had been submitted to him on the 24 instant, he thought it most advisable that he should give no opinion thereon, first, because as a public character he had no power to decide the point, secondly, as a private one it would only be committing sentiments that would be void of operation, that is, which might have no effect on those whose opinions did not coincide therewith, and thirdly, because it might open an avenue to more extensive discussion of points of Etiquette than he should chuse to be engaged in. This opinion the President requested Major Butler to communicate to Mr. Izard and Mr. Burr, with a view to save them the trouble of calling upon him; to whom, however, if they inclined to do it, he would repeat the same sentiments.

"About three o'clock these Gentlemen were again deputed to wait upon the President and present to him the following Resolutions of the Senate, the last of which, it seems, applies

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to them as well out of, as while in Session, because they say they are liable to be called upon in their Executive capacity, whenever the President shall think it proper to do it.”

On October 26 the Senate voted unanimously that Senators “may, with propriety, pay the first visit on all Ambassadors after they shall be received by the President and announced by him to the public, in consideration of their being the Representatives of the persons and dignities of their respective Sovereigns, and that the Senators will expect to receive the first visit from all other Ministers...this rule shall be considered as universal.”

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, October 27, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: I lay before you a copy of a letter and of sundry documents which I have received from the Governor of Pennsylvania, respecting certain persons who are said to have fled from justice out of the State of Pennsylvania into that of Virginia; together with a report of the Attorney General upon the subject.

I have received from the Governor of North Carolina a copy of an Act of the General Assembly of that State authorizing him to convey to the United States the right and jurisdiction of the said State over one acre of land in Occacock Island, and ten acres on the Cape Island within the said State, for the purpose of erecting light houses thereon, together with the deed of the Governor in pursuance thereof, and the original conveyances made to the State by the individual proprietors, which original conveyances contain conditions that the light house on Occacock shall be built before the first day of January 1801, and that on the Cape Island before the 8th. day of October 1800. And I have caused these several papers to be deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State.

A statement of the returns of the enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States,⁵⁴ which have been received, will at this time be laid before you.⁵⁵

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54. A tabular statement of this “enumeration” (the first census) is printed in the *Annals of Congress*.

On October 27 Washington addressed a brief message to the Senate and House of Representatives, respecting the reports of General Scott and Lieutenant Colonel Wilkinson, on their expeditions against the Wabash and Wea Indians in June and August, 1791. This message is printed in Richardson's *Messages and Papers of the President* in the *Annals of Congress*.

55. From the “Letter Book” copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, October 31, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I send you herewith the arrangement which has been made by me, pursuant to the Act, entitled “An Act repealing, after the last day of June next, the duties heretofore laid upon distilled Spirits imported from abroad, and laying others in their stead, and also upon spirits, distilled within the United States, and for appropriating the same”, in respect to the subdivision of the several districts, created by the said Act, into surveys of Inspection, the appointment of Officers for the same, and the assignment of compensations.⁵⁸

[CH.H.S.]

58. In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, November 10, 1791.

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Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: The Resolution passed at the last Session of Congress, requesting the President of the United States to cause an estimate to be laid before Congress at their next Session of the quantity and situation of the lands not claimed by the Indians, nor granted to, nor claimed by any of the Citizens of the United States within the territory ceded to the United States by the State of North Carolina, and within the territory of the United States North West of the River Ohio, has been referred to the Secretary of State; a copy of whose report on the subject⁷⁰ I now lay before you, together with the copy of a letter accompanying it.⁷¹

70. A press copy of this report is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress under date of Nov. 8, 1791.

71. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, December 12, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: It is with great concern that I communicate to you the information received from Major General St. Clair of the misfortune which has befallen the troops under his command.⁵

Although the national loss is considerable according to the scale of the event, yet it may be repaired without great difficulty, excepting as to the brave men who have fallen on the occasion, and who are a subject of public as well as private regret.

5. Near Fort Recovery, in Mercer County, Ohio, on Nov. 4, 1791, and generally referred to as "St. Clair's defeat."

A further communication will shortly be made of all such matters as shall be necessary to enable the Legislature to judge of the future measures which it may be proper to pursue.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, December 13, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: I place before you the plan of a City that has been laid out within the District of ten miles square which was fixed upon for the permanent seat of the Government of the United States.⁷

7. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, January 11, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I lay before you, in confidence, two Reports made to me by the Secretary for the Department of War, relatively to the present state of affairs on the Western frontiers of the United States.

In these Reports the causes of the present war with the Indians; the measures taken by the Executive in order to terminate it amicably; and the military preparations for the late Campaign, are stated and explained; and also a plan suggested of such further measures on the occasion as appear just and expedient.

I am persuaded, Gentlemen, that you will take this important subject into your immediate and serious consideration, and that the result of your deliberations will be the adoption of such wise and efficient measures

as will reflect honor on our national Councils and promote the welfare of our Country.²⁹

29. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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On January 8 Washington wrote a brief note of acknowledgment to Robert Bowyet for an engraved portrait print of the Countess of Huntingdon, made from Bowyer's painting. This letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE

United States, January 18, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate: I lay before you the communications of a deputation from the Cherokee Nation of Indians now in this City.

And I request your advice whether an additional Article⁴⁵ shall be made to the Cherokee treaty to the following purport, to wit:

That the sum to be paid annually by the United States to the Cherokee Nation of Indians, in consideration of the relinquishment of lands, as stated in the treaty made with them on the second day of July 1791, shall be one thousand five hundred dollars, instead of one thousand dollars mentioned in the said treaty.

45. The Senate agreeing to this additional article, Lear, on January 20, informed the Secretary of War thereof, and added. "The President wishes to see the Secy before he communicates this matter either to the Cherokees or to the Interpreter." Lear', draft is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, January 23, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and House of Representatives: Having received a letter from the Governor of Virginia, enclosing a Resolution of the General Assembly of that State, and a report of a Committee of the House of Delegates respecting certain lands located by the Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia line, under the laws of that State, and since ceded to

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the Chickasaw Indians, I lay the same before you, together with a Report of the Secretary of State on this subject.⁴⁹

49. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Jefferson's draft of this report is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress under date of January 21. A copy is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers* under date of January 22.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, February 8, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: An Article of expence having occurred in the department of foreign affairs for which no provision has been made by law,⁷⁵ I lay before you a letter from the Secretary of State explaining the same, in order that you may do thereon what you shall find to be right.⁷⁶

75. The expense had been incurred in the relief of a number of American seamen who had been impressed by the British Navy.

76. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, March 5, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: Knowing the friendly interest you take in whatever may promote the happiness and prosperity of the French Nation, it is with pleasure that I lay before you the translation of a letter which I have received from His Most Christian Majesty,¹³ announcing to the United States of America his acceptance of the Constitution presented to him in the name of his Nation.¹⁴

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13. King Louis XVI of France. His letter was dated Sept, 19, 1791.

14. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE

March 6, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate: With a view to relieve the merchants and merchandize of the United States from the extra duties to which they are or may be subjected in the Ports of Denmark, I have thought it for the interest of the United States that a Consul be appointed to reside at Copenhagen.¹⁵ I therefore nominate Hans Rudolph Saaby, a Danish subject and Merchant of Copenhagen to be *Consul* for the United States of America for the Port of Copenhagen, and such other places within the allegiance of his Danish Majesty as shall be nearer to the said Port than the residence of any other Consul or Vice Consul of the United States within the same Allegiance.¹⁴

15. On January 10 Jefferson had reported to Washington that a consul was necessary in Denmark and recommended the appointment of Saaby in nearly the same language used by the President in this letter. A press copy of this report is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. The appointment was ratified by the Senate, March 7.

14. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE

United States, March 7, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate: I submit to your consideration the Report of the Secretary of State which accompanies this,³⁰ stating the reasons for extending the negotiation

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proposed at Madrid to the subject of commerce,³¹ and explaining under the form of instructions to the Commissioners lately appointed to that Court, the principles

30. A press copy of the report of Jefferson (March 7), together with the articles proposed for insertion by Gardoqui, are in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. They are printed in the *Executive Journal*.

31. On March 16 the Senate consented to the proposed extension of powers.

on which commercial arrangements with Spain might, if desired on her part, to be acceded to on ours: And I have to request your decision, whether you will advise and consent to the extension of the powers of the Commissioners as proposed, and to the ratification of a treaty which shall conform to those instructions, should they enter into such a one with that Court.³²

32. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, March 9, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I now lay before you a general Account rendered by the Bankers of the United States at Amsterdam of the payments they had made between the 1st of July 1790 and 1791 from the funds deposited in their hands for the purposes of the Act providing the means of intercourse between the United States and foreign nations, and of the balance remaining in their hands; together with a letter from the Secretary of State on the subject.⁴¹

41. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. A press copy of the letter of the Secretary of State (March 7) and of the account mentioned is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, March 20, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: The several Acts which have been passed relatively to the Military Establishment of the United States and the protection of the frontiers, do not appear to have made provision for more than one Brigadier General. It is incumbent upon me to observe, that with a view merely to the organization of the troops designated in these Acts, a greater number of Officers of that grade would, in my opinion, be conducive to the good of the Public service. But an increase of the number becomes still more desireable, in reference to a different organization which is contemplated, pursuant to the authority vested in me for that purpose, and which, besides other advantages expected from it, is recommended by considerations of œconomy.

I therefore request that you will be pleased to take this subject into your early consideration, and to adopt such measures thereon as you shall judge proper.¹⁷

To THE SENATE

United States, March 23, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate: At the conference which Colonel Pickering had with the five Nations at the painted Post the last year, the ideas were then held out of introducing among them some of the primary principles of civilization. In consequence of which, as well as more firmly to attach them to the interests of the United States they have been invited to the seat of the general Government.

As the representation now here, is respectable for its characters and influence, it is of some importance that the Chiefs should be well satisfied of the entire good faith and liberality of the United States.

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In managing the affairs of the Indian tribes, generally, it appears proper to teach them to expect annual presents conditioned on the evidence of their attachment to the interests of the United States. The situation of the five nations, and the present crisis of affairs would seem to render the extension of this measure to them highly judicious. I therefore request the advice of the Senate, whether an Article shall be stipulated with the five nations, to the following purport. To wit:

17. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

The United States, in order to promote the happiness of the five nations of Indians, will cause to be expended annually the amount of One thousand five hundred dollars, in purchasing for them clothing, domestic animals and impliments of husbandry, and for encourageing useful artificers to reside in their Villages.²¹

21. This message, which is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*, was read in the Senate, March 26, and the stipulation agreed to the same day.

To THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Veto Message)

United States, April 5, 1792.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: I have maturely considered the Act passed by the two Houses, intituled, "An Act for an apportionment

of Representatives among the several States according to the first enumeration,"⁴⁴ and I return it to your House, wherein it originated, with the following objections.

First: The Constitution has prescribed that Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States, according to their respective Numbers: and there is no one proportion

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or division which, applied to the respective numbers of the States, will yield the number and allotment of Representatives proposed by the bill.

Second. The Constitution has also provided that the number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand: which restriction is, by the context, and by fair and obvious construction, to be applied to the separate and respective numbers of the States: and the bill has allotted to eight of the States more than one for thirty thousand.⁴⁵

44. On April 6 the “Apportionment Bill,” as it was called, was reconsidered in the light of the President's veto and failed to pass over the same. This is recorded in the *Annals of Congress* of that date. A digest of the opinions of the Secretaries of State, Treasury, and War, and of the Attorney General on the constitutionality of the bill, in the writing of Tobias Lear, is in the *Washington Papers* filed at the end of April, 1792.

45. From the “Letter Book” copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 13, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I have thought it proper to lay before you a communication of the 11th instant from the Minister Plenipotentiary of Great Britain, to the Secretary of State, relative to the commerce of the two Countries; together with their explanatory correspondence,⁵² and the Secretary of States letter to me on the subject.⁵³

52. Hammond had notified Jefferson that Great Britain would enforce her navigation act and exclude foreign vessels from the islands of Jersey and Guernsey. The letters between Jefferson and Hammond are copied in the “Letter Book” in the *Washington Papers*.

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53. A press copy of Jefferson's letter to Washington, Apr. 13, 1792, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, April 16, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I lay before you a letter from the Judges of the Circuit Court of the United States held for New York District, and of their opinion and agreement⁵⁴ respecting the “Act to provide for the settlement of the Claims of Widows and Orphans barred by the limitations heretofore established, and to regulate the claims to Invalid Pensions.”⁵⁵

54. This opinion is entered in the “Letter Book” in the *Washington Papers*. The court declined to act as a court (as provided in the act); but “as the objects of this Act are exceedingly benevolent” they the judges “will execute this Act in the capacity of Commissioners.”

55. From the “Letter Book” copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On April 21 Washington laid a similar opinion from the circuit court of Pennsylvania before Congress. This message and opinion are also entered in the “Letter Book.”

To THE SENATE

United States, May 8, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate If the President of the United States should conclude a Convention or Treaty with the Government of Algiers for the ransom of the thirteen Americans in Captivity there, for a sum not exceeding 40,000 dollars, all expenses included, will the Senate approve the same? Or is there any, and what greater or lesser

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sum, which they would fix on as the limit beyond which they would not approve the Ransom?⁹⁴

If the President of the United States should conclude a treaty with the Government of Algiers for the establishment of peace with them at an expense not exceeding twenty five thousand dollars paid at the signature, and a like sum to be paid annually afterwards during the continuance of the treaty would the Senate approve the same? Or, are there

94. On April 1 Jefferson had submitted to Washington "Considerations on the subjects of ransom and peace with the Algerines," a press copy of which is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

any greater or lesser sums which they would fix on as the limits beyond which they would not approve of such treaty?⁹⁵

95. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

FOURTH ANNUAL ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

November 6, 1792.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: It is some abatement of the satisfaction, with which I meet you on the present occasion, that

in felicitating you on a continuance of the National prosperity, generally, I am not able to add to it information that the Indian hostilities, which have for some time past distressed our North Western frontier, have terminated.

You will, I am persuaded, learn, with no less concern than I communicate it, that reiterated endeavors, toward effecting a pacification, have hitherto issued only in new and outrageous proofs of persevering hostility, on the part of the tribes with whom we are in contest. An earnest desire to procure tranquillity to the frontier; to stop the further effusion

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of blood; to arrest the progress of expense; to forward the prevalent wish of the Nation, for peace, has led, through various channels, to strenuous efforts, to accomplish these desirable purposes: In making which efforts, I consulted less my own anticipations of the event, or the scruples, which some considerations were calculated to inspire, than the wish to find the object attainable; or if not attainable, to ascertain unequivocally that such is the case.

A detail of the measures, which have been pursued, and of their consequences, which will be laid before you, while it will confirm to you the want of success, thus far, will, I trust, evince that means as proper and as efficacious as could have been devised, have been employed. The issue of some of them, indeed, is still depending; but a favourable one, though not to be despaired of, is not promised by anything that has yet happened.

In the course of the attempts which have been made, some valuable citizens have fallen victims to their zeal for the public service. A sanction commonly respected even among savages, has been found, in this instance, insufficient to protect from Massacre the emissaries of peace. It will, I presume, be duly considered whether the occasion does not call for

an exercise of liberality towards the families of the deceased.

It must add to your concern, to be informed, that besides the continuation of hostile appearances among the tribes North of the Ohio, some threatening symptoms have of late been revived among some of those south of it.

A part of the Cherokees, known by the name of Chickamagas, inhabiting five Villages on the Tennessee River, have been long in the practice of committing depredations on the neighbouring settlements.

It was hoped that the treaty of Holstin, made with the Cherokee nation in July 1791, would have prevented a repetition of such depredations. But the event has not answered this

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hope. The Chickamagas, aided by some Banditti of another tribe in their vicinity, have recently perpetrated wanton and unprovoked hostilities upon the Citizens of the United States in that quarter. The information which has been received on this subject will be laid before you. Hitherto defensive precautions only have been strictly enjoined and observed.

It is not understood that any breach of Treaty, or aggression whatsoever, on the part of the United States, or their Citizens, is even alleged as a pretext for the spirit of hostility in this quarter.

I have reason to believe that every practicable exertion has been made (pursuant to the provision by law for that purpose) to be prepared for the alternative of a prosecution of the war, in the event of a failure of pacific overtures. A large proportion of the troops authorized to be raised, has been recruited, though the number

is still incomplete. And pains have been taken to discipline and put them in condition for the particular kind of service to be performed. A delay of operations (besides being dictated by the measures which were pursuing towards a pacific termination of the war) has been in itself deemed preferable to immature efforts. A statement from the proper department with regard to the number of troops raised, and some other points which have been suggested, will afford more precise information, as a guide to the legislative consultations; and among other things will enable Congress to judge whether some additional stimulus to the recruiting service may not be adviseable.

In looking forward to the future expense of the operations, which may be found inevitable, I derive consolation from the information I receive, that the product of the revenues for the present year, is likely to supersede the necessity of additional burthens on the community, for the service of the ensuing year. This, however, will be better ascertained in the course of the Session; and it is proper to add, that the information alluded to proceeds upon the supposition of no material extension of the spirit of hostility.

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I cannot dismiss the subject of Indian affairs without again recommending to your consideration the expediency of more adequate provision for giving energy to the laws throughout our interior frontier, and for restraining the commission of outrages upon the Indians; without which all pacific plans must prove nugatory. To enable, by competent rewards, the employment of qualified and trusty persons to reside among them, as agents, would also contribute to the preservation of peace and good neighbourhood. If, in addition to these expedients, an eligible plan could be devised for promoting civilization among the

friendly tribes, and for carrying on trade with them, upon a scale equal to their wants, and under regulations calculated to protect them from imposition and extortion, its influence in cementing their interests with our's could not but be considerable.

The prosperous state of our Revenue has been intimated. This would be still more the case, were it not for the impediments, which in some places continue to embarrass the collection of the duties on spirits distilled within the United States. These impediments have lessened, and are lessening in local extent, and as applied to the community at large, the contentment with the law appears to be progressive.

But symptoms of increased opposition having lately manifested themselves in certain quarters, I judged a special interposition on my part, proper and adviseable; and under this impression, have issued a proclamation, warning against all unlawful combinations and proceedings, having for their object or tending to obstruct the operation of the law in question, and announcing that all lawful ways and means would be strictly put in execution for bringing to justice the infractors thereof, and securing obedience thereto.

Measures have also been taken for the prosecution of offenders: and Congress may be assured, that nothing within Constitutional and legal limits, which may depend on me, shall be wanting to assert and maintain the just authority of the laws. In fulfilling this trust, I shall count intirely upon the full cooperation of the other departments of Government, and upon the zealous support of all good Citizens.

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I cannot forbear to bring again into

the view of the Legislature the subject of a revision of the Judiciary System. A representation from the Judges of the Supreme Court, which will be laid before you, points out some of the inconveniences that are experienced. In the course of the execution of the laws, considerations arise out of the structure of that System, which, in some cases, tend to relax their efficacy. As connected with this subject, provisions to facilitate the taking of bail upon processes out of the Courts of the United States, and supplementary definition of Offences against the Constitution and laws of the Union, and of the punishment for such Offences, will, it is presumed, be found worthy of particular attention.

Observations on the value of peace with other Nations are unnecessary. It would be wise, however, by timely provisions, to guard against those acts of our own Citizens, which might tend to disturb it, and to put ourselves in a condition to give that satisfaction to foreign Nations which we may sometimes have occasion to require from them. I particularly recommend to your consideration the means of preventing those aggressions by our Citizens on the territory of other nations, and other infractions of the law of Nations, which, furnishing just subject of complaint, might endanger our peace with them. And in general, the maintenance of a friendly intercourse with foreign powers will be presented to your attention by the expiration of the law for that purpose, which takes place if not renewed, at the close of the present session.

In execution of the Authority given by the legislature, measures have been taken for engaging some artists from abroad to aid in the establishment of our mint; others have been employed at home. Provision has been made for the requisite buildings, and

these are now putting into proper condition for the purposes of the establishment. There has also been a small beginning in the coinage of half-dismes; the want of small coins in circulation calling the first attention to them.

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The regulation of foreign Coins in correspondency with the principles of our national coinage, as being essential to their due operation, and to order in our money concerns, will, I doubt not, be resumed and completed.

It is represented that some provisions in the law, which establishes the Post-Office, operate, in experiment, against the transmission of newspapers to distant parts of the Country. Should this, upon due inquiry, be found to be the case, a full conviction of the importance of facilitating the circulation of political intelligence and information, will, I doubt not, lead to the application of a remedy.¹⁵

The adoption of a Constitution for the State of Kentucky has been notified to me. The Legislature will share with me in the satisfaction which arises from an event interesting to the happiness of the part of the Nation to which it relates, and conducive to the general Order.

It is proper likewise to inform you, that since my last communication on the subject, and in further execution of the Acts severally making provision for the public debt, and for the reduction thereof, three new loans have been effected, each for three millions of Florins. One at Antwerp, at the annual interest of four and one half per Cent, with an Allowance of four per Cent in lieu of all charges; and the other two at Amsterdam, at the annual interest of four per Cent, with an allowance of five and one half per Cent in one case, and of five per Cent in the other in lieu of all charges. The rates of these loans, and the circumstances under

15. On December 31 Lear wrote to the Postmaster General: "In reply to your letter of this date requesting me to inform you of the facts or representations communicated to the President relative to newspapers, which led him to notice them in his Speech at the opening of the present session of Congress; I have the honor to inform you that it was represented to the President in such a way as to place the fact beyond a doubt in his mind, that in consequence of the rate of postage imposed on the transmission of Newspapers

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by the Post-office Law, many persons in Virginia who had heretofore taken Newspapers from this City, had declined receiving them any longer; and that many others declared that they only continued to take them under a full persuasion that the rate of postage would be reduced during the present Session of Congress, and that if such reduction should not take place, they would desire the printers to stop their papers.

“In addition to these strong marks of disapprobation of the rate of postage on newspapers given by individuals, he was informed that the public mind, so far as it had been expressed in that quarter on the subject, appeared very anxious that an alteration should take place in that part of the post office Law which relates to the transmission of Newspapers.”

This letter is entered in the “Letter Book” in the *Washington Papers*.

which they have been made, are confirmations of the high state of our Credit abroad.

Among the objects to which these funds have been directed to be applied, the payment of the debts due to certain foreign Officers, according to the provision made during the last Session, has been embraced.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: I entertain a strong hope that the state of the national finances is now sufficiently matured to enable you to enter upon a Systematic and effectual arrangement for the regular redemption and discharge of the public debt, according to the right which has been reserved served to the Government. No measure can be more desirable, whether viewed with an eye to its intrinsic importance, or to the general sentiment and wish of the Nation.

Provision is likewise requisite for the reimbursement of the loan which has been made for the Bank of the United States, pursuant to the eleventh section of the Act by which it is incorporated. In fulfilling the public stipulations in this particular, it is expected a valuable saving will be made.

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Appropriations for the current service of the ensuing year, and for such extraordinaries as may require provision, will demand, and, I doubt not, will engage your early attention.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: I content myself with recalling your attention, generally, to such objects, not particularized

in my present, as have been suggested in my former communications to you.

Various temporary laws will expire during the present Session. Among these, that which regulates trade and intercourse with the Indian Tribes, will merit particular notice.

The results of your common deliberations, hitherto, will, I trust, be productive of solid and durable advantages to our Constituents; such as, by conciliating more and more their ultimate suffrage, will tend to strengthen and confirm their attachment to that constitution of Government, upon which, under Divine Providence, materially depend their Union, their safety and their happiness.

Still further to promote and secure these inestimable ends, there is nothing which can have a more powerful tendency, than the careful cultivation of harmony, combined with a due regard to stability, in the public Councils.¹⁶

16. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. A rough draft, in Alexander Hamilton's writing, is in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, November 7, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: In pursuance of the law, I now lay before you a statement of the administration of the funds appropriated to certain foreign purposes, together with a letter from the Secretary of State, explaining the same.

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I also lay before you

A Copy of a letter and representation from the Chief Justice and Associate Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, stating the difficulties and inconveniences which attend the discharge of their duties, according to the present Judiciary System,

A Copy of a letter from the Judges attending the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of North Carolina in June last, containing their observations on An Act passed during the last session of Congress, entitled “An Act to provide for the settlement of the Claims of Widows and Orphans barred by the limitations heretofore established, and to regulate the Claims to Invalid Pensions,” And,

A Copy of the Constitution formed for the State of Kentucky.¹⁸

18. From the “Letter Book” copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Copies of these documents, except the constitution of Kentucky, are entered in the “Letter Book” immediately following this message.

***To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

November 7, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I lay before you copies of certain papers relative to the Spanish interference in the execution of the Treaty entered into in the year 1790, between the United States and the Creek nation of Indians, together with a letter from the Secretary of State to the President of the United States on the same subject.¹⁷

17. From the “Letter Book” copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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Copies of the inclosures are entered in the "Letter Book" immediately following this message.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, November 9, 1792.¹⁹

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I now lay before you a letter from the Secretary of State covering the copy of one from the Governor of Virginia, with the several papers therein referred to,²⁰ on the subject of the boundary between that State and the Territory of the United States south of the Ohio. It will remain with the Legislature to take such measures as it shall think best for settling the said boundary with that State, and at the same time if it thinks proper, for extending the settlement to the State of Kentucky, between which and the same territory the boundary is as yet undetermined.¹⁸

19. This day at 11 o'clock the Senate waited upon the President at his house, when John Langdon, President *pro tem.* delivered an address, dated November 8, to which the President replied. This address and the reply are entered in the "Letter Book."

20. The inclosures mentioned are entered in the "Letter Book" immediately following this message.

18. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, November 22, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I send you herewith, the abstract

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of a supplementary arrangement³⁰ which has been made by me pursuant to the acts of the third day of March 1791, and the Eight day of May 1792 for raising a Revenue upon foreign and domestic distilled spirits, in respect to the subdivisions and officers which have appeared to me necessary, and to the allowances for their respective services to the Supervisors, Inspectors and other Officers of Inspection; together with estimates of the amount of compensation and charges.³¹

30. Entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers* immediately following the message.

31. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, December 6, 1792.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: the several measures which have been pursued to induce the hostile Indian tribes North of the River Ohio to enter into a conference or treaty with the United States, at which all causes of difference might be fully understood, and justly and amicably arranged, have already been submitted to both houses of Congress.

The papers herewith sent⁴⁷ will inform you of the result.⁴⁶

47. Copies of the papers sent are entered in the "Letter Book" immediately following this message.

46. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, December 7, 1792.

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Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I lay before you two letters with their enclosures, from the Governor of the South-Western Territory, and an extract of a letter to him from the department of War.

These, and a letter of the 9th. of October last, which has been already communicated to you, from the same department to the Governor, will shew in what manner the first section of the Act of the last Session, which provides for the calling out the Militia for the repelling of Indian invasions, has been executed. It remains to be considered by Congress, whether in the present situation of the United States, it be adviseable or not, to pursue any further, or other measures, than those which have been already adopted. The nature of the Subject does [not] of itself call for your immediate attention to it; and I must add, that upon the result of your deliberations the further conduct of the executive will on this occasion materially depend.⁴⁸

48. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, January 25, 1793.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: I lay before you an official statement⁹¹ of the Expenditure to the end of the year 1792, from the Sum of Ten thousand Dollars, granted to defray the contingent expences of Government, by an Act passed on the 26 of March 1790.⁹²

Also an abstract of a supplementary Arrangement made in the District of North Carolina, in regard to certain Surveys, to facilitate the execution of the Law laying a duty on distilled Spirits.⁹³

91. This statement is entered in the "Letter Book" immediately following this message.

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92. In the *Journal of the Proceedings of the President in the Washington Papers* is recorded under January 26 the following: "The Attorney General of the United States brot. to the President for his signature (which was affixed thereto) a Resolution of the board of Trustees for purchasing the public debt, [Trustees of the Sinking Fund] to lay out 150,000 dollars in purchasing 6 per Cent and deferred Stock agreeably to the Acts passed for that purpose."

93. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, January 23, 1793.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: Since my last Communication to you on the subject of the Revenue on distilled Spirits, it has been found necessary, on experience, to revise and amend the arrangements relative thereto, in regard to certain Surveys and the officers thereof in the District of North Carolina, which I have done accordingly in the manner following.

1st. The several Counties of the said District originally and heretofore contained within the first, second and third Surveys, have been allotted into, and are now contained in two Surveys; one of which (to be hereafter denominated the first) comprehends the Town of Wilmington, and the Counties of Onslow, New Hanover, Brunswick, Robertson, Sampson, Craven, Jones, Lenox, Glasgow, Johnston and Wayne; and the other of which (to be hereafter denominated the second) comprehends the Counties of Kurrituck, Camden, Pacquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Gates, Hartford, Tyrrel, Bertie, Carteret, Hyde, Beaufort and Pitt.

2dly. The several Counties of the said District originally and heretofore contained within the fifth Survey of the District aforesaid, has been allotted into and is contained in two

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Surveys; one of which (to be hereafter denominated the third) comprehends the Counties of Mecklenburg, Rowan, Iredell, Montgomery, Guilford, Rockingham, Stokes, and

Surry; and the other of which (to be hereafter denominated the fifth) comprehends the Counties of Lincoln, Rutherford, Burke, Buncombe and Wilkes.

3dly. The duties of Inspector of the Revenue in and for the third Survey, as constituted above, are to be performed, for the present, by the Supervisor.

4thly. The compensation of the Inspector of the Revenue for the first Survey, as above constituted, are to be a Salary of Two hundred and fifty Dollars p annum, and Commissions and other emoluments similar to those heretofore allowed to the Inspector of the late first Survey, as it was originally constituted.

5thly. The compensation of the Inspector of the Revenue for the second Survey, as above constituted, are to be a salary of One hundred Dollars p annum, and Commissions and other emoluments heretofore allowed to the Inspector of the late third Survey, as it was originally constituted.

6thly. The compensations of the Inspector of the Revenue for the fifth Survey, as above constituted, are to be a Salary of One hundred and twenty Dollars per annum, and the Commissions and other emoluments similar to those heretofore allowed to the Inspector of the last fifth Survey, as it was originally constituted.⁸⁷

87. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The letter was read in Congress on January 26.

To THE SENATE

United States, February 13, 1793.

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Gentlemen of the Senate: I lay before you for your consideration and advice, a treaty of peace and friendship made and concluded on the 27 day of

September 1792, by Brigadier General Rufus Putnam in behalf of the United States, with the Wabash and Illinois tribes of Indians: and also the proceedings attending the said Treaty, the explanation of the *fourth* article thereof, and a Map explanatory of the reservation to the French inhabitants, and the general claim of the said Indians.

In connexion also with this subject, I also lay before the Senate the copy of a paper which has been delivered by a man by the name of John Baptiste Magee, who has accompanied the Wabash Indians at present in this City.

It will appear by the Certificate of Brigadier General Putnam, that the Wabash Indians disclaimed the validity of the said paper, excepting a certain tract upon the Wabash, as mentioned in the proceedings.

The Instructions to Brigadier Genl. Putnam of the 22d. of May, together with a Letter to him of the 7 of August 1792, were laid before the Senate on the 7 of November 1792.

After the Senate shall have considered this Treaty, I request that they would give me their advise whether the same shall be ratified and confirmed; and if to be ratified and confirmed, whether it would not be proper, in order to prevent any misconception hereafter, of the Fourth Article, to guard in the ratification the exclusive pre-emption of the United States to the Land of the said Indians.²¹

21. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On February 14 Lear wrote to David Burnes in answer to his letter to the President of February 12 that Washington was "exceedingly sorry to learn that any misunderstanding has taken place between the Commissioners and yourself, relative to your land in the federal City; yet, as the Commissioners were appointed, according to law, for the special

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purpose of managing all matters within the District and city respecting the ground and public buildings, and thereby relieving the President from the details of that business (which the duties of his Office would have made it impossible for him to have entered into) he declines any interference on the subject of your letter. And adds, that from his knowledge of the Characters of the Gentlemen acting as Commissioners, he does not believe there can be any intention, on their part, to avoid a strict compliance with the terms of the contract made with the proprietors, or to withhold what is justly due to any individual concerned therein. But, that, if you conceive yourself injured by any conduct of their's the door is open for an appeal to that tribunal where every Citizen has a right to seek for justice." The draft of this letter is in *Letters and Papers of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

On February 15, according to the *Journal of the Proceedings of the President*, a committee of both houses of Congress waited on the President at noon to inform him "that upon counting the Votes given for the President and Vice President, it appeared that George Washington was elected President of the United States, by the unanimous Vote of the Electors, for four year from the fourth day of March next ensuing. After communicating this information to the President, the Committee withdrew."

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, February 18, 1793.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I now lay before you a Report, and Plat of the Territory of the United States, on the Potomac, as given in by the Commissioners of that Territory,²⁷ together with a Letter from the Secretary of State which accompanied them. These papers being original, are to be again deposited with the Records of the Department of State, after having answered the purpose of your information.²⁸

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27. This plat was executed by Andrew Ellicott.

28. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, February 19, 1793.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: It has been agreed on the part of the United States that a treaty or conference shall be held the ensuing season with the hostile Indians, North West of the Ohio, in order to remove, if possible, all causes of difference and to establish a solid Peace with them.

As the Estimates, heretofore presented to the House for the current year, did not contemplate this object, it will be proper that an express provision be made by law, as well for the general expences of the treaty, as to establish the compensation to be allowed the Commissioners, who shall be appointed for the purpose.

I shall therefore direct the Secretary of War to lay before you an Estimate of the expences, which may probably attend this measure.³¹

31. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE

United States, February 28, 1793.

Gentlemen of the Senate: I was led, by a consideration of the qualifications of Willm. Patterson of New Jersey, to nominate him an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.⁴² It has since occurred that he was a member of the Senate when the Law creating that Office was passed, and that the time for which he was elected is not yet

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expired. I think it my duty therefore, to declare that I deem the nomination to have been null by the Constitution.⁴³

42. The President had nominated Paterson, in a brief message to the Senate, February 27, which is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. The Senate confirmed the appointment on March 4.

43. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***FIFTH ANNUAL ADDRESS TO CONGRESS**

Philadelphia, December 3, 1793⁴¹

Fellow Citizens of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives

Since the commencement of the term, for which I have been again called into office, no fit occasion has arisen for expressing to my

41. At 12 o'clock the President, attended by the Secretaries of State, Treasury, and War, and the Attorney General proceeded to the Senate Chamber, where both Houses of Congress had assembled and there delivered this address.

fellow Citizens at large, the deep and respectful sense, which I feel, of the renewed testimony of public approbation. While on the one hand, it awakened my gratitude for all those instances of affectionate partiality, with which I have been honored by my Country; on the other, it could not prevent an earnest wish for that retirement, from which no private consideration should ever have torn me. But influenced by the belief, that my conduct would be estimated according to its real motives; and that the people, and the authorities derived from them, would support exertions, having nothing personal for their object, I have obeyed the suffrage which commanded me to resume the Executive power; and

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I humbly implore that Being, on whose Will the fate of Nations depends, to crown with success our mutual endeavours for the general happiness.

As soon as the War in Europe had embraced those Powers, with whom the United States have the most extensive relations; there was reason to apprehend that our intercourse with them might be interrupted, and our disposition for peace, drawn into question, by the suspicions, too often entertained by belligerent Nations. It seemed therefore to be my duty to admonish our Citizens of the consequences of a contraband trade, and of hostile Acts to any of the parties; and to obtain by a declaration of the existing legal state of things, an easier admission of our right to the immunities, belonging to our situation. Under these impressions the Proclamation, which will be laid before you, was issued.

In this posture of affairs, both new and

delicate, I resolved to adopt general rules, which should conform to the Treaties, and assert the priviledges, of the United States. These were reduced into a system, which will be communicated to you. Although I have not thought myself at liberty to forbid the Sale of the prizes, permitted by our treaty of Commerce with France to be brought into our ports; I have not refused to cause them to be restored, when they were taken within the protection of our territory; or by vessels commissioned, or equipped in a warlike form within the limits of the United States.

It rests with the wisdom of Congress to correct, improve or enforce this plan of procedure; and it will probably be found expedient, to extend the legal code, and the Jurisdiction of the Courts of the United States, to many cases, which, though dependent on principles already recognized, demand some further provisions.

Where individuals shall within the United States, array themselves in hostility against any of the powers at war; or enter upon Military expeditions, or enterprizes within the jurisdiction of the United States; or usurp and exercise judicial authority within the United States; or where the penalties on violations of the law of Nations may have been

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indistinctly marked, or are inadequate; these offences cannot receive too early and close an attention, and require prompt and decisive remedies.

Whatsoever those remedies may

be, they will be well administered by the Judiciary, who possess a long established course of investigation, effectual process, and Officers in the habit of executing it. In like manner; as several of the Courts have *doubted*, under particular circumstances, their power to liberate the vessels of a Nation at peace, and even of a citizen of the United States, although seized under a false colour of being hostile property; and have *denied* their power to liberate certain captures within the protection of our territory; it would seem proper to regulate their jurisdiction in these points. But if the Executive is to be the resort in either of the two last mentioned cases, it is hoped, that he will be authorized by law, to have facts ascertained by the Courts, when, for his own information, he shall request it.

I cannot recommend to your notice measures for the fulfilment of *our* duties to the rest of the world, without again pressing upon you the necessity of placing ourselves in a condition of compleat defence, and of exacting from *them* the fulfilment of *their* duties towards *us*. The United States ought not to indulge a persuasion, that, contrary to the order of human events, they will for ever keep at a distance those painful appeals to arms, with which the history of every other nation abounds. There is a rank due to the United States among Nations, which will be withheld, if not absolutely lost, by the reputation of weakness. If we desire to avoid insult, we must be able to repel it; if we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our rising prosperity, it must be known, that we are at all times ready for War.

The documents, which will be presented to you, will shew the amount, and kinds of Arms and military stores now in our Magazines and Arsenals: and yet an addition even to these supplies cannot with prudence be neglected; as it would leave nothing to the uncertainty of procuring a warlike apparatus, in the moment of public danger. Nor can such

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arrangements, with such objects, be exposed to the censure or jealousy of the warmest friends of Republican Government. They are incapable of abuse in the hands of the Militia, who ought to possess a pride in being the depository of the force of the Republic, and may be trained to a degree of energy, equal to every military exigency of the United States. But it is an inquiry, which cannot be too solemnly pursued, whether the act “more effectually to provide/or the National defence by establishing an uniform Militia throughout the United States” has organized them so as to produce their full effect; whether your own experience in the several States has not detected some imperfections in the scheme; and whether a material feature in an improvement of it, ought not to be, to afford an opportunity for the study of those branches of the Military art, which can scarcely ever be attained by practice alone?

The connexion of the United States with Europe, has become extremely interesting. The occurrences, which relate

to it, and have passed under the knowledge of the Executive, will be exhibited to Congress in a subsequent communication.

When we contemplate the war on our frontiers, it may be truly affirmed, that every reasonable effort has been made to adjust the causes of dissension with the Indians, North of the Ohio. The Instructions given to the Commissioners evince a moderation and equity proceeding from a sincere love of peace, and a liberality, having no restriction but the essential interests and dignity of the United States. The attempt, however, of an amicable negotiation having been frustrated, the troops have marched to act offensively. Although the proposed treaty did not arrest the progress of military preparation; it is doubtful, how far the advance of the Season, before good faith justified active movements, may retard them, during the remainder of the year. From the papers and intelligence, which relate to this important subject, you will determine, whether the deficiency in the number of Troops, granted by law, shall be compensated by succours of Militia; or additional encouragements shall be proposed to recruits. An anxiety has been also

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demonstrated by the Executive, for peace with the Creeks and the Cherokees. The former have been relieved with Corn and with clothing, and offensive measures against them prohibited during the recess of Congress. To satisfy the complaints of the latter, prosecutions have been instituted for the violences committed upon them. But the papers, which

will be delivered to you, disclose the critical footing on which we stand in regard to both those tribes; and it is with Congress to pronounce what shall be done.

After they shall have provided for the present emergency, it will merit their most serious labours, to render tranquillity with the Savages permanent, by creating ties of interest. Next to a rigorous execution of justice on the violators of peace, the establishment of commerce with the Indian nations in behalf of the United States, is most likely to conciliate their attachment. But it ought to be conducted without fraud, without extortion, with constant and plentiful supplies; with a ready market for the commodities of the Indians, and a stated price for what they give in payment, and receive in exchange. Individuals will not pursue such a traffic, unless they be allured by the hope of profit; but it will be enough for the United States to be reimbursed only. Should this recommendation accord with the opinion of Congress, they will recollect, that it cannot be accomplished by any means yet in the hands of the Executive. Gentlemen of the House of Representatives

The Commissioners, charged with the settlement of Accounts between the United and individual States, concluded their important functions, within the time limited

by Law; and the balances, struck in their report, which will be laid before Congress, have been placed on the Books of the Treasury.

On the first day of June last, an instalment of one million of florins became payable on the loans of the United States in Holland. This was adjusted by a prolongation of the period of

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reimbursement, in nature of a new loan, at an interest at five per cent for the term of ten years; and the expences of this operation were a commission of three pr Cent.

The first instalment of the loan of two millions of dollars from the Bank of the United States, has been paid, as was directed by Law. For the second, it is necessary, that provision should be made.

No pecuniary consideration is more urgent, than the regular redemption and discharge of the public debt: on none can delay be more injurious, or an œconomy of time more valuable.

The productiveness of the public revenues hitherto, has continued to equal the anticipations which were formed of it; but it is not expected to prove commensurate with all the objects, which have been suggested. Some auxiliary provisions will, therefore, it is presumed, be requisite; and it is hoped that these may be made, consistently with a due regard to the convenience of our Citizens, who cannot but be sensible of the true wisdom of encountering a small present addition to their contributions, to obviate a future accumulation of burthens.

But here, I cannot forbear to recommend a repeal of the tax on the transportation of public prints. There is no resource so firm for the Government of the United States, as the affections of the people guided by an enlightened policy; and to this primary good, nothing can conduce more, than a faithful representation of public proceedings, diffused, without restraint, throughout the United States.

An estimate of the appropriations, necessary for the current service of the ensuing year, and a statement of a purchase of Arms and Military stores made during the recess, will be presented to Congress.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives

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The several subjects, to which I have now referred, open a wide range to your deliberations; and involve some of the choicest interests of our common Country. Permit me to bring to your remembrance the magnitude of your task. Without an unprejudiced coolness, the welfare of the Government may be hazarded; without harmony, as far as consists with freedom of Sentiment, its dignity may be lost. But, as the Legislative proceedings of the United States will never, I trust, be reproached for the want of temper

or candour; so shall not the public happiness languish, from the want of my strenuous and warmest cooperations.⁴²

PROCLAMATION OF NEUTRALITY

Philadelphia, April 22, 1793.

Whereas it appears that a state of war exists between Austria, Prussia, Sardinia, Great Britain, and the United Netherlands, on the one part, and France on the other; and the duty and interest of the United States require, that they should with sincerity and good faith adopt and pursue a conduct friendly and impartial towards the belligerent powers:

I have therefore thought fit by these presents, to declare the disposition of the United States to observe the conduct aforesaid towards those powers respectively; and to exhort and warn the citizens of the United States carefully to avoid all acts and proceedings whatsoever, which may in any

42. From a photostat of the original in the files of the United States Senate.

The Senate replied to this address, December 9, and the President answered December 10. The House of Representatives replied to the President in an address agreed upon December 6, and delivered December 7, to which the President answered the same day. These addresses and answers, which are purely formal in character, are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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manner tend to contravene such disposition.

And I do hereby also make known, that whosoever of the citizens of the United States shall render himself liable to punishment or forfeiture under the law of nations, by committing, aiding or abetting hostilities against any of the said powers, or by carrying to any of them, those articles which are deemed contraband by the modern usage of nations, will not receive the protection of the United States against such punishment or forfeiture; and further that I have given instructions to those officers to whom it belongs, to cause prosecutions to be instituted against all persons, who shall, within the cognizance of the Courts of the United States, violate the law of nations, with respect to the powers at war, or any of them.²¹

21. The text is taken from the publication of the Proclamation in *The Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette*.

The *Journal of the Proceedings of the President*, under April 22, reads:

“The Heads of the Departments and the Arty Genl. met this day agreeably to notification.

“The consideration of the Queries which had been submitted to them was further postponed.

“The draft of a Proclamation by the Attorney General was approved and directed to be got ready for publication....

“Signed the Proclamation of Neutrality.”

Copies of the Proclamation were sent by the Secretary of State to the Ministers of France, England, and Holland, and he was desired by the President to send copies to the Governors of the different States. These were sent April 26.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 5, 1793.

As the present situation of the several nations of Europe, and especially of those with which the U.S. have important relations, cannot but render the state of things between them and us, matter of interesting inquiry to the Legislature, and may indeed give rise to deliberations to which they alone are competent; I have thought it my duty to communicate to them certain correspondences which have taken place.

The representative and Executive bodies of France have manifested generally a friendly attachment to this Country; have given advantages to our commerce and navigation; and have made overtures for placing these advantages on permanent ground; a decree however of the National Assembly, subjecting Vessels laden with provisions to be carried into their ports, and making enemy goods lawful prize in the vessel of a friend, contrary to our treaty, tho' revoked at one time, as to the United States, has been since extended to their vessels also, as has been recently stated to us. Representations on this subject will be immediately given in charge to our Minister there, and the result shall be communicated to the Legislature.

It is with extreme concern I have to inform you, that the proceedings of the person whom they have unfortunately appointed their Minister plenipotentiary here, have breathed nothing of the friendly spirit of the nation which sent him; their tendency on the contrary, has been to involve us in War abroad, and discord and anarchy at home. So far as his acts, or those of his agents, have threatened our immediate commitment in the war, or flagrant insult to the authority of the Laws, their effect has been counteracted by the ordinary cognizance of the laws, and by an exertion of the powers confided to me. Where their danger was not imminent, they have been borne with, from sentiments of regard to his nation, from a sense of their friendship towards us, from a conviction that they would

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not suffer us to remain long exposed to the action of a person who has so little respected our mutual dispositions, and I will add, from the reliance on the firmness of my fellow Citizens in their principles of peace and order.

In the mean time, I have respected and pursued the stipulations of our treaties, according to what I judged their true sense; and have withheld no act of friendship, which their affairs have called for from us, and which justice to others left us free to perform. I have gone further. Rather than employ force for the restitution of certain vessels, which I deemed the United States bound to restore, I thought it more advisable to satisfy the parties, by avowing it to be my opinion, that if restitution were not made, it would be incumbent on the

United States to make compensation. The papers now communicated, will more particularly apprise you of these transactions.

The vexations and spoliation understood to have been committed on our vessels and commerce, by the cruisers and officers of some of the belligerent powers, appeared to require attention. The proofs of these, however, not having been brought forward, the description of Citizens supposed to have suffered were notified, that on furnishing them to the Executive, due measures would be taken to obtain redress of the past, and more effectual provisions against the future. Should such documents be furnished, proper representations will be made thereon, with a just reliance on a redress proportioned to the exigency of the case.

The British Government having undertaken by orders to the Commanders of their armed vessels, to restrain, generally, our Commerce in Corn and other provisions to their own ports, and those of their friends, the instructions now communicated were immediately forwarded to our Minister at that Court. In the mean time some discussions on the subject took place between him and them: these are also laid before you; and I may expect to learn the result of his special instructions in time to make it known to the Legislature during their present Session.

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Very early after the arrival of a british Minister here, mutual explanations on the inexecution of the treaty of peace, were entered into with that Minister. These are now laid before

you for your information.

On the subjects of mutual interest between this Country and Spain, negotiations and conferences are now depending. The public good requiring that the present state of these should be made known to the Legislature in confidence only, they shall be the subject of a separate and subsequent communication.⁴⁵

45. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On December 6 Dandridge wrote to Childs & Swaine that the President had not time to read the public prints and "therefore desires you will not consider him as a subscriber for the Supplement to the daily advertiser, and that you will discontinue to transmit it to him." Dandridge's letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, December 16, 1793.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives:

The situation of Affairs in Europe in the course of the year 1790, having rendered it possible that a moment might arrive, favorable for the arrangement of our unsettled matters with Spain, it was thought proper to prepare a representative at that Court to avail us of it. A confidential person was therefore despatched to be the bearer of instructions to him,⁵⁵ and to supply by verbal communications any additional information of which he might find himself in need. The Government of France was at the same time applied to for

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its aid and influence in this negotiation. Events however took a turn which did not present the occasion hoped for.

About the close of the ensuing year I was informed through the representatives of Spain here, that their government would be willing to renew at Madrid the former conferences on these subjects; though the transfer of scene was not what would have been desired, yet I did not think it important enough to reject the proposition; and therefore, with the advice

55. David Humphreys.

and consent of the Senate, I appointed Commissioners plenipotentiary⁵⁶ for negotiating and concluding a treaty with that Country on the several subjects of boundary, navigation and commerce; and gave them the instructions now communicated. Before these negotiations, however, could be got into train, the new troubles which had arisen in Europe had produced new combinations among the powers there, the effects of which are but too visible in the proceedings now laid before you.

In the mean time some other points of discussion had arisen with that Country; to wit, the restitution of property escaping into the territories of each other, the mutual exchange of fugitives from justice, and above all the mutual interferences with the Indians lying between us. I had the best reason to believe that the hostilities threatened and exercised by the southern Indians on our border, were excited by the Agents of that Government. Representations were thereon directed to be made, by our Commissioners, to the Spanish government, and a proposal to cultivate with good faith the peace of each other with these people. In the mean time, corresponding suspicions were entertained, or pretended to be entertained on their part, of like hostile excitements by our Agents to disturb their peace with the same nations. These were brought forward by the representatives of Spain here, in a stile which could not fail to produce attention. A claim of patronage and protection of those Indians was asserted, a mediation between them and us, by that sovereign, assumed, their boundaries

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56. William Carmichael and William Short.

with us made a subject of interference, and at length, at the very moment when these savages were committing daily inroads upon our frontier, we were informed by them that “the continuation of the peace, good harmony and perfect friendship of the two nations was very problematical for the future, unless the United States should take more convenient measures, and of greater energy than those adopted for a long time past.”

If their previous correspondence had worn the appearance of a desire to urge on a disagreement, this last declaration left no room to evade it, since it could not be conceived we would submit to the scalping knife and tomahawk of the savage without any resistance. I thought it time therefore to know if these were the views of their sovereign, and despatched a special messenger⁵⁷ with instructions to our Commissioners, which are among the papers now communicated. Their last letter gives us reason to expect very shortly to know the result. I must add that the Spanish representatives here, perceiving that their last communication had made considerable impression, endeavored to abate this by some subsequent professions, which being also among the communications to the legislature, they will be able to form their own conclusions.⁵⁸

57. James Blake.

58. From the “Letter Book” copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, December 16, 1793.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I lay before you a report of the Secretary of State on the measures which have been taken on behalf of the United States, for the purpose of obtaining a recognition of our treaty with Morocco; and for the ransom of our Citizens and establishment of peace with Algiers.

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While it is proper our citizens should know, that subjects which so much concern their interests and their feelings, have duly engaged the attention of their Legislature and Executive, it would still be improper that some particulars of this communication should be made known. The confidential conversation stated in one of the last letters sent herewith, is one of these; both justice and policy require that the source of that information should remain secret. So a knowledge of the sums meant to have been given for peace and ransom, might have a disadvantageous influence on future proceedings for the same objects.⁵⁴

54. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, December 30, 1793.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: I now transmit you a report by the Secy. of State, of such laws, decrees and ordinances, or their substance, respecting commerce in the countries with which the United States have commercial intercourse, as he has received, and had not stated in his report of the sixteenth instant.⁶⁷

67. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, December 30, 1793.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I lay before you for your consideration a letter from the Secretary of State informing me of certain impediments, which have arisen, to the coinage of the precious metals at the Mint.

As also, a letter from the same officer relative to certain advances of money, which have been made on public account. Should you think proper to sanction what has been done,

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or be of opinion that anything more shall be done in the same way, you will judge whether there are not circumstances which would render secrecy expedient.⁶⁷

67. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, January 7, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: Experience has shown, that it would be useful to have an officer, particularly charged, under the direction of the Departmt. of war, with the duties of receiving, safekeeping and distributing the public supplies in all cases, in which the laws and the course of service do not devolve them upon other officers; and also, with that of superintending, in all cases, the issues in detail of supplies, with power for that purpose, to bring to account all persons entrusted to make such issues in relation thereto. An establishment of this nature, by securing a regular and punctual accountability for the issues of public supplies, would be a great guard against abuse, would tend to ensure their due application, and to give public satisfaction on that point.

I therefore recommend to the consideration of Congress, the expediency of an establishment of this nature, under such regulations as shall appear to them adviseable.⁷⁴

74. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

In the *Washington Papers* is a paper wrapper dated January, 1794, in Washington's writing as follows: "Whilst the measure, which gave rise to these papers, was under consideration, advice was reed. from our Minister at Paris, that Mr. Genet wd. be immediately recalled which arrested the business in this Stage of it."

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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United States, January 20, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: Having already laid before you a letter of the 16. of August 1793. from the Secretary

of State to our Minister at Paris; stating the conduct, and urging the recall of the Minister plenipotentiary of the Republic of France; I now communicate to you, that his conduct has been unequivocally disapproved; and that the strongest assurances have been given, that his recall should be expedited without delay.⁷⁸

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, January 21, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: It is with satisfaction I announce to you, that the alterations which have been made by law in the original plan for raising a duty on spirits distilled within the United States and on stills, cooperating with better information, have had a considerable influence in obviating the difficulties which have embarrassed that branch of the public revenue. But the obstacles which have been experienced, though lessened, are not yet entirely surmounted; and it would seem that some further legislative provisions may usefully be superadded, which leads me to recall the attention of Congress to the subject. Among the

78. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Ford prints the following note: "The severest critic of Genet was his successor Fauchet, who had come from France in association with three other 'commissaires' to disentangle the meshes of Genet's policy. He was armed with power to arrest Genet and the French consuls in American ports, but on consulting with Randolph, he was told that the United States only demanded the recall of Genet and did not seek his punishment; that the President could not acquiesce in such a measure. The commissioners reported to the

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Executive Council their views on Genet's operations. 'It appeared that he had vigorously pronounced for a party in opposition to the government of the United States; that he has also exasperated this party. That he has ruffled without example all the chiefs of executive power. We have been led to note in many of those whom he saw or with whom he was in correspondence, more personal hatred of Washington than love for France. In others we have seen a true enthusiasm for the cause of liberty....What produced his exaggeration and that of his agents? Some dissensions that later might become fatal to America and to France, the desertion of all moderate people who up to that time had been the friends of France, and who have again rallied to our cause since our arrival. Our brave men, our soldiers, our officers, our sailors, our free and loyal republicans, hearing the French officials pronounce that the American government was aristocratic, that it was sold to the English, &c., went everywhere exaggerating the proposal of the minister and the consuls. ...To justify his conduct, Genet had the impudence to publish a part of his instructions. This publication would have done us much harm, if he had not had the vanity to declare that he had accomplished them himself, and if this conduct had not drawn upon him the contempt of honest souls, who should think that a man ought to allow himself to be calumniated rather than bring his government into ridicule or disfavor, and if it was not generally believed that he had made an oath of allegiance to the United States.'"

matters, which may demand regulation, is the effect, in point of organization, produced by the separation of Kentucky from the State of Virginia; and the situation. with regard to the Law, of the territories Northwest and Southwest of the Ohio.

The Laws respecting Lighthouse establishments require as a condition of their permanent maintenance, at the expence of the United States, a complete cession of soil and jurisdiction. The cessions of different States having been qualified with a reservation of the right of serving legal process within the ceded jurisdiction, are understood to be inconclusive, as annexing a qualification not consonant with the terms of the Law.

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I present this circumstance to the view of Congress that they may judge whether any alteration ought to be made.

As it appears to be conformable with the intention of the "Ordinance for the Government of the territory of the United States, Northwest of the river Ohio," altho' it is not expressly directed that the laws of that territory should be laid before Congress, I now transmit to you a copy of such, as have been passed from July to Decemr. 1792 inclusive, being the last which have been received by the Secretary of State.⁷⁹

79. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, January 30, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: Communications have been made to Congress during the present Session, with the intention of affording a full view of the posture of affairs on the south western frontiers. By the information which has lately been laid before Congress, it appeared that the difficulties with the Creeks had been amicably and happily terminated; but it will be perceived, with regret, by the papers herewith transmitted, that the tranquillity has unfortunately been of short duration, owing to the murder of several friendly Indians by some lawless white men.

The condition of things in that quarter, requires the serious and immediate consideration of Congress; and the adoption of such wise and vigorous laws as will be competent to the preservation of the national character, and of the peace made under the authority of the United States with the several Indian tribes: Experience demonstrates that the existing legal provisions are entirely inadequate to those great objects.⁸⁶

86. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, February 19, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: I lay before you the copy of a Letter which I have received from the

Chief Justice and associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States,⁹² and their desire, the representation mentioned in the said Letter, pointing out certain defects in the judiciary system.⁹³

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, February 24, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: the extracts, which I now lay before you,⁵ from a letter of our Minister at London, are supplementary to some of my past communications, and will appear to be of a confidential nature.

I also transmit to you, copies of a letter from the Secretary of State to the Minister peniy. of his britannic majesty, and of the answer thereto, upon the subject of the treaty between the United States and Great Britain; together with the copy of a letter from Messrs. Carmichael and Short, relative to our affairs with Spain; which letter is connected with a former confidential message.⁶

92. Dated Feb. 18, 1794, and signed by Jay, Cushing, Wilson. Blair, and Paterson, inclosing a representation, addressed to Congress, and signed by the justices. Neither this letter nor the representation are now found in the *Washington Papers*, but the text of both is printed in *American State Papers* (Miscellaneous), vol. 1, p. 77.

93. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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5. The letter from Thomas Pinckney of Nov. 25, 1793, and the other letters mentioned in this message, are printed in *American State Papers, Foreign Relations*, 1, 325–326.

6. From the “Letter Book” copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE

United States, February 26, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate: I have caused the correspondence, which is the subject of your resolution of the 24 day of Jany. last, to be laid before me. After an examination of it, I directed [copies] and translations to be made; except in those particulars, which, in my judgment, for public considerations, ought not to be communicated.

These copies and translations are now transmitted to the Senate; but the nature of them manifests the propriety of their being received as confidential.⁸

8. From the “Letter Book” copy in the *Washington Papers*.

“E. Randolph has the honor of informing the President, that the message of to-day. appears to have given general satisfaction. Mr. M—d—n in particular thinks it will have a good effect. He asked me, whether an extract could not have been given from Mr. Morris's letter; upon my answering, that there were some things interwoven with the main subject, which ought not to be promulgated, he admitted, that the discretion of the President was always to be the guide.”— *Randolph to Washington*, Feb. 24, 1794. Randolph's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, March 5, 1794.

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Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: The Secretary of State having reported to me upon the several complaints which have been lodged in his office, against the vexations and spoliation on our commerce since the commencement of the European war; I transmit to you a copy of his statement, together with the documents upon which it is founded.¹³

13. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, March 28, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: In the execution of the resolution of Congress, bearing date the 26th of March 1794, and imposing an Embargo,²⁴ I have requested the Governors of the several States, to call forth the force of their militia, if it should be necessary for the detention of Vessels. This power is conceived to be incidental to an embargo.

It also deserves the attention of Congress, how far the clearances from one District to another, under the law as it now stands, may give rise to evasions of the Embargo. As one security, the Collectors have been instructed to refuse to receive the surrender of coasting licences for the purpose of taking out registers, and to require

24. For the term of 30 days on all vessels in the ports of the United States bound to any foreign place or port. At a meeting of the Cabinet. March 26 it was "advised unanimously, that the governors of the several States ought to be called upon, to enforce the said embargo by the militia, whensoever it may be necessary to appeal to force." This opinion, signed by Randolph, Hamilton, Knox, and Attorney General William Bradford, is in the *Washington Papers*. No copy or draft of the request to the Governors of the States is now found in the *Washington Papers*.

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bond from registered vessels, bound from one District to another, for the delivery of the Cargo within the United States.

It is not understood, that the resolution applies to fishing vessels; altho' their occupations lie, generally, in parts beyond the United States. But without further restrictions there is an opportunity of their priviledges being used as means of eluding the embargo.

All armed vessels possessing public Commissions from any foreign power (letters of Marque excepted) are considered as not liable to the embargo.

These circumstances are transmitted to Congress for their consideration.²⁵

25. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, April 15, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I lay before you a letter from the Minister plenipotentiary⁵⁸ of his britannic Majesty to the Secretary of State; a Letter from the Secretary of the territory South of the river Ohio, enclosing an ordinance and Proclamation of the Governor thereof; the translation of so much of a petition of the Inhabitants of post Vincennes, addressed to the President, as relates to Congress; and certain dispatches lately received from our Commissioners at Madrid.⁵⁹ These dispatches from Madrid being a part of a business, which has been hitherto deemed confidential, they are forwarded under that view.⁵⁷

58. See message to the Senate and the House of Representatives, May 12, 1794, *post*, on the letter from the British Minister.

59. The Madrid dispatches related to the navigation of the Mississippi.

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57. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE

United States, April 16, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate: The communications, which I have made to you during your present session, from the dispatches of our Minister in London, contain a serious aspect of our affairs with Great Britain. But as peace ought to be pursued with unremitted zeal, before the last resource, which has so often been the scourge of nations, and cannot fail to check the advanced prosperity of the United States, is contemplated; I have thought proper to nominate, and do hereby nominate.

John Jay, as Envoy extraordinary of the United States, to his britannic majesty.⁶³

My confidence in our Minister plenipotentiary in London continues undiminished. But a mission, like this, while it corresponds with the solemnity of the occasion, will announce to the world a solicitude for a friendly adjustment of our complaints, and a reluctance to hostility. Going immediately from the United States, such an envoy will carry with him a full knowledge of the existing temper and sensibility of our Country; and will thus be taught to vindicate our rights with firmness, and to cultivate

63. Jay's original commission and copies of his letters of credential are in the Public Record Office of Great Britain (F. O. 95:512, fols. 10–27). Photostat copies of these are in the Library of Congress.

peace with sincerity.⁶⁴

64. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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United States, May 12, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: As the letter which I forwarded to Congress the 15 day of April last, from the Minister plenipotentiary of his britannic majesty to the Secy. of State, in answer to a Memorial of our Minister in London,⁹⁹ related to, a very interesting subject, I thought it proper not to delay its communication. But since that time the memorial itself has been received in a letter from our Minister, and a reply has been made to that answer by the Secretary of State. Copies of them are, therefore, now transmitted.

I also send the copy of a letter from the Governor of Rhode Island, enclosing an act of the Legislature of that State, empowering the United States to hold lands within the same for the purpose of erecting fortifications; and certain papers, concerning patents for the donation lands to the ancient settlers of Vincennes upon the Wabash.¹

⁹⁹. Thomas Pinckney.

¹. From the "Letter Book" copy in the Washington Papers.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, May 20, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the

House of Representatives: In the communications, which I have made to Congress during the present session, relative to foreign nations, I have omitted no opportunity of testifying my anxiety to preserve the United States in peace. It is peculiarly therefore my duty at this time to lay before you the present state of certain hostile threats against the territories of Spain, in our neighbourhood.⁵

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The documents, which accompany this message, develop the measures, which I have taken to suppress them, and the intelligence, which has been lately received.

It will be seen from thence, that the subject has not been neglected; that every power, vested in the executive, on such occasions, has been exerted; and that there was reason to believe, that the enterprise projected against the Spanish was relinquished.

But it appears to have been revived upon principles, which set public order at defiance, and place the peace of the United States in the discretion of unauthorised individuals. The means, already deposited in the different departments of Government, are shewn by experience, not to be adequate to these high exigencies, although such of them as are lodged in the hands of the executive, shall continue to be used with promptness, energy and decision proportioned to the case. But I am impelled by the position of our public affairs to recommend that provision be made for a stronger and more vigorous opposition, than can be given to such hostile movements under the laws as they now stand.⁶

5. The revived expeditions of unauthorized persons against the Spanish dominions centered in Georgia; the former ones had come from Kentucky. The documents accompanying this message are printed in *American State Papers, Foreign Relations*, vol. 1.

6. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, May 21, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I lay before you, in confidence, sundry

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papers, by which you will perceive the state of affairs between us and the six nations, and the probable cause to which it is owing. And also certain information whereby it would appear that some encroachment was about to be made on our territory, by an officer and party of british troops. Proceeding upon a supposition of the authenticity of this information, although of a private nature, I have caused the representation to be made to the british Minister, a copy of which accompanies this message.

It cannot be necessary to comment upon the very serious nature of such an encroachment, nor to urge that this new state of things suggests the propriety of placing the United States in a posture of effectual preparation for an event which notwithstanding the endeavours making to avert it, may by circumstances beyond our controul, be forced upon us.⁷

7. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

United States, June 2, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: I send you certain communications recently from Georgia, which materially change the prospect of affairs in that quarter, and seem to render a war with the Creek Nations, more probable than it has been at any antecedent period. While the attention of Congress will be directed to the consideration of measures suited to the exigency, it cannot escape their observation, that this intelligence brings a fresh proof of the insufficiency of the existing provisions of the laws towards the effectual cultivation and preservation of peace with our Indian neighbours.²¹

21. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

SIXTH ANNUAL ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

United States, November 19, 1794.35

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: When we call to mind the gracious indulgence of Heaven, by which the American People became a nation; when we survey the general prosperity of our country, and look forward to the riches, power, and happiness, to which it seems destined; with the deepest regret do I announce to you, that during your recess, some of the citizens of the United States have been found capable of an insurrection. It is due, however, to the character of our government, and to its stability, which cannot be shaken by the enemies of order, freely to unfold the course of this event.

During the session of the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety, it was expedient to exercise the legislative power, granted by the constitution of the United States, "to lay and collect excises." In a majority of the States, scarcely an objection was heard to this mode of taxation. In some, indeed, alarms were at first conceived, until they were banished by reason and patriotism. In the four western counties of Pennsylvania, a prejudice, fostered and embittered by the artifice of men, who labored for an ascendancy over the will of others, by the guidance of their passions, produced symptoms of riot and violence. It is well known, that Congress did not hesitate to examine the complaints which were presented, and to relieve them, as far as justice dictated, or general convenience would permit, But the impression, which this moderation made on the discontented, did not

35. Congress convened November 3, but a quorum not being present, it adjourned from day to day until November 18, when a committee consisting of Senators Ralph Izard and John Langdon and Representatives Elias Boudinot, Henry Dearborn, and Nicholas Gilman waited upon the President "to inform him that Congress were ready to receive any communications which he might think fit to make and to know when and where he would choose to make them. The President informed the Committee that he would meet both Houses of Congress tomorrow, at noon, in the Chamber of the House of Representatives, and make such communications as appeared to him to suit the occasion."

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This entry is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*: "November 19th. Agreeably to the arrangement of yesterday, the President, attended by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War and the Attorney General of the U States (the Secretary of the Treasury being absent) repaired at noon to the chamber of the House of Representatives, where the members of the two houses being assembled, he addressed them the following Speech."

correspond, with what it deserved. The arts of delusion were no longer confined to the efforts of designing individuals.

The very forbearance to press prosecutions was misinterpreted into a fear of urging the execution of the laws; and associations of men began to denounce threats against the officers employed. From a belief, that by a more formal concert, their operation might be defeated, certain self-created societies³⁶ assumed the tone of condemnation. Hence, while the greater part of Pennsylvania itself were conforming themselves to the acts of excise, a few counties were resolved to frustrate them. It was now perceived, that every expectation from the tenderness which had been hitherto pursued, was unavailing, and that further delay could only create an opinion of impotency or irresolution in the government. Legal process was, therefore, delivered to the marshal, against the rioters and delinquent distillers.

No sooner was he understood to be engaged in this duty, than the vengeance of armed men was aimed at *his* person, and the person and property of the inspector of the revenue. They fired upon the marshal, arrested him, and detained him for some time, as a prisoner. He was obliged, by the jeopardy of his life, to renounce the service of other process, on the west side of the Allegeny mountain; and a deputation was afterwards sent to him to demand a surrender of that which he *had* served. A numerous body repeatedly attacked the house of the inspector, seized his papers of office, and finally destroyed

36. The Democratic societies.

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by fire, his buildings, and whatsoever they contained. Both of these officers, from a just regard to their safety, fled to the seat of government; it being avowed, that the motives to such outrages were to compel the resignation of the inspector, to withstand by force of arms the authority of the United States, and thereby to extort a repeal of the laws of excise, and an alteration in the conduct of government.

Upon the testimony of these facts, an associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States notified to me, that "in the counties of Washington and Allegeny, in Pennsylvania, laws of the United States were opposed, and the execution thereof obstructed by combinations, too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the marshal of that district." On this call, momentous in the extreme, I sought and weighed, what might best subdue the crisis. On the one hand, the judiciary was pronounced to be stripped of its capacity to enforce the laws; crimes, which reached the very existence of social order, were perpetrated without controul, the friends of government were insulted, abused, and overawed into silence, or an apparent acquiescence; and the yield to the treasonable fury of so small a portion of the United States, would be to violate the fundamental principle of our constitution, which enjoins that the will of the majority shall prevail. On the other, to array citizen against citizen, to publish the dishonor of such excesses, to encounter the expense, and other embarrassments of so distant an expedition, were steps too delicate, too closely interwoven with many affecting considerations, to be lightly adopted. I postponed,

therefore, the summoning of the militia immediately into the field. But I required them to be held in readiness, that if my anxious endeavours to reclaim the deluded, and to convince the malignant of their danger, should be fruitless, military force might be prepared to act, before the season should be too far advanced.

My Proclamation of the 7th of August last was accordingly issued, and accompanied by the appointment of Commissioners, who were charged to repair to the scene of insurrection. They were authorized to confer with any bodies of men, or individuals.

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They were instructed to be candid and explicit, in stating the sensations, which had been excited in the Executive, and his earnest wish to avoid a resort to coercion. To represent, however, that without submission, coercion *must* be the resort; but to invite them, at the same time, to return to the demeanor of faithful citizens, by such accommodations as lay within the sphere of the executive power. Pardon, too, was tendered to them by the government of the United States, and that of Pennsylvania, upon no other condition, than a satisfactory assurance of obedience to the laws.

Although the report of the commissioners marks their firmness and abilities, and must unite all virtuous men, by shewing, that the means of conciliation have been exhausted, all of those who had committed or abetted the tumults, did not subscribe the mild form, which was proposed, as the atonement; and the indications of a peaceable temper were neither sufficiently general,

nor conclusive, to recommend or warrant, a further suspension of the march of the militia.

Thus, the painful alternative could not be discarded. I ordered the militia to march, after once more admonishing the insurgents, in my proclamation of the 25th of September last.

It was a task too difficult to ascertain with precision, the lowest degree of force, competent to the quelling of the insurrection. From a respect, indeed, to œconomy, and the ease of my fellow citizens belonging to the militia, it would have gratified me to accomplish such an estimate. My very reluctance to ascribe too much importance to the opposition, had its extent been accurately seen, would have been a decided inducement to the smallest efficient numbers. In this uncertainty, therefore, I put in motion fifteen thousand men, as being an army, which, according to all human calculation, would be prompt, and adequate in every view; and might perhaps, by rendering resistance desperate, prevent the effusion of blood. Quotas had been assigned to the states of New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia; the governor of Pennsylvania having declared on this occasion, an opinion which justified a requisition to the other states.

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As commander in chief of the militia, when called into the actual service of the United States, I have visited the places of general rendezvous, to obtain more exact information, and to direct a plan for ulterior movements. Had there been room for a persuasion, that the laws were secure from obstruction; that the civil magistrate was able

to bring to justice such of the most culpable, as have not embraced the proffered terms of amnesty, and may be deemed fit objects of example; that the friends to peace and good government were not in need of that aid and countenance, which they ought always to receive, and I trust, ever will receive, against the vicious and turbulent; I should have caught with avidity the opportunity of restoring the militia to their families and home. But succeeding intelligence has tended to manifest the necessity of what has been done; it being now confessed by those who were not inclined to exaggerate the ill-conduct of the insurgents, that their malevolence was not pointed merely to a particular law; but that a spirit, inimical to all order, has actuated many of the offenders. If the state of things had afforded reason for the continuance of my presence with the army, it would not have been withholden. But every appearance assuring such an issue, as will redound to the reputation and strength of the United States, I have judged it most proper, to resume my duties at the seat of government, leaving the chief command with the governor of Virginia.

Still, however, as it is probable, that in a commotion like the present, whatsoever may be the pretence, the purposes of mischief and revenge may not be laid aside; the stationing of a small force for a certain period in the four western counties of Pennsylvania will be indispensable; whether we contemplate the situation of those, who are connected with the execution of the laws; or of others

who may have exposed themselves by an honorable attachment to them.

Thirty days from the commencement of this session, being the legal limitation of the employment of the militia, Congress cannot be too early occupied with this subject.

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Among the discussions, which may arise from this aspect of our affairs, and from the documents which will be submitted to Congress, it will not escape their observation, that not only the inspector of the revenue, but other officers of the United States in Pennsylvania have, from their fidelity in the discharge of their functions, sustained material injuries to their property. The obligation and policy of indemnifying them are strong and obvious. It may also merit attention, whether policy will not enlarge this provision to the retribution of other citizens, who, though not under the ties of office, may have suffered damage by their generous exertions for upholding the constitution and the laws. The amount, even if all the injured were included, would not be great; and on future emergencies, the government would be amply repaid by the influence of an example, that he, who incurs a loss in its defence shall find a recompense in its liberality.

While there is cause to lament, that occurrences of this nature should have disgraced the name, or interrupted the tranquillity of any part of our community, or should have diverted to a new application, any portion of the public resources, there are not wanting real and substantial consolations for the misfortune. It has demonstrated, that our prosperity rests on solid foundations; by furnishing

an additional proof, that my fellow citizens understand the true principles of government and liberty: that they feel their inseparable union: that notwithstanding all the devices which have been used to sway them from their interest and duty, they are now as ready to maintain the authority of the laws against licentious invasions, as they were to defend their rights against usurpation. It has been a spectacle, displaying to the highest advantage, the value of Republican Government, to behold the most and least wealthy of our citizens standing in the same ranks as private soldiers; pre-eminently distinguished by being the army of the constitution; undeterred by a march of three hundred miles over rugged mountains, by the approach of an inclement season, or by any other discouragement. Nor ought I to omit to acknowledge the efficacious and patriotic co-operation, which I have

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experienced from the chief magistrates of the states, to which my requisitions have been addressed.

To every description, indeed, of citizens let praise be given. But let them persevere in their affectionate vigilance over that precious depository of American happiness, the constitution of the United States. Let them cherish it too, for the sake of those, who from every clime are daily seeking a dwelling in our land. And when in the calm moments of reflection, they shall have retraced the origin and progress of the insurrection, let them determine, whether it has not been fomented by combinations of men, who, careless of consequences, and disregarding the unerring truth, that those

who rouse, cannot always appease a civil convulsion, have disseminated, from an ignorance or version of facts, suspicions, jealousies, and accusations of the whole government.

Having thus fulfilled the engagement, which I took, when I entered into office, "to the best of my ability to preserve, protect, and defend the constitution of the United States," on you, Gentlemen, and the people by whom you are deputed, I rely for support.

In the arrangements, to which the possibility of a similar contingency will naturally draw your attention, it ought not to be forgotten, that the militia laws have exhibited such striking defects, as could not have been supplied but by the zeal of our citizens. Besides the extraordinary expense and waste, which are not the least of the defects, every appeal to those laws is attended with a doubt of its success.

The devising and establishing of a well regulated militia, would be a genuine source of legislative honor, and a perfect title to public gratitude. I, therefore, entertain a hope, that the present session will not pass, without carrying to its full energy the power of organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia; and thus providing, in the language of the

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constitution, for calling them forth to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions.

As auxiliary to the state of our defence, to which Congress can never too frequently recur, they will not omit to enquire whether the fortifications, which have been already licensed by law, be commensurate with our exigencies.

The intelligence from the army, under the command of general Wayne, is a happy presage to our military operations against the hostile Indians north of the Ohio. From the advices which have been forwarded, the advance which he has made must have damped the ardor of the savages, and weakened their obstinacy in waging war against the United States. And yet, even at this late hour, when our power to punish them cannot be questioned, we shall not be unwilling to cement a lasting peace, upon terms of candor, equity, and good neighborhood.

Towards none of the Indian tribes have overtures of friendship been spared. The Creeks in particular are covered from encroachment by the interposition of the General Government and that of Georgia. From a desire also to remove the discontents of the Six Nations, a settlement, meditated at Presqu'isle on Lake Erie, has been suspended; and an agent is now endeavoring to rectify any misconception, into which they may have fallen. But I cannot refrain from again pressing upon your deliberations, the plan which I recommended at the last session, for the improvement of harmony with all the Indians within our limits, by the fixing and conducting of trading houses, upon the principles then expressed.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: The time, which has elapsed, since the commencement of our fiscal measures,

has developed our pecuniary resources, so as to open a way for a definitive plan for the redemption of the public debt. It is believed, that the result is such, as to encourage Congress to consummate this work, without delay. Nothing can more promote the permanent welfare of the nation, and nothing would be more grateful to our constituents.

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Indeed whatsoever is unfinished of our system of public credit, cannot be benefited by procrastination; and as far as may be practicable, we ought to place that credit on grounds which cannot be disturbed, and to prevent that progressive accumulation of debt which must ultimately endanger all governments.

An estimate of the necessary appropriations, including the expenditures into which we have been driven by the insurrection, will be submitted to Congress.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives: The mint of the United States has entered upon the coinage of the precious metals; and considerable sums of defective coins and bullion have been lodged with the director by individuals. There is a pleasing prospect that the institution will, at no remote day, realize the expectation which was originally formed of its utility.

In subsequent communications, certain circumstances of our intercourse with foreign nations, will be transmitted to Congress. However, it may not be unseasonable to announce

that my policy in our foreign transactions has been, to cultivate peace with all the world; to observe treaties with pure and absolute faith; to check every deviation from the line of impartiality; to explain what may have been misapprehended, and correct what may have been injurious to any nation; and having thus acquired the right, to lose no time in acquiring the ability, to insist upon justice being done to ourselves.

Let us unite, therefore, in imploring the Supreme Ruler of nations, to spread his holy protection over these United States: to turn the machinations of the wicked to the confirming of our constitution: to enable us at all times to root out internal sedition, and put invasion to flight: to perpetuate to our country that prosperity, which his goodness has already conferred, and to verify the anticipations of this government being a safe guard to human rights.³⁷

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37. The text is from the official broadside printed at the time by John Fenno, a copy of which is in the Library of Congress.

On November 22 the Senate replied to this address and the President acknowledged the reply on the same day.

On November 29 the House of Representatives also replied to the address, and the President acknowledged the reply on the same day. These replies, as well as the addresses from the House and Senate, are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SENATE

U. States, November 21, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate: In the negotiation between the U States and his Catholic Majesty, I have received satisfactory proofs of attention and ability, exerted in behalf of the U.S. to bring it to a happy and speedy issue. But it is probable that by complying with an intimation, made to the Secretary of State by the Commissioners of his catholic majesty, much further delay in concluding it may be prevented. Notwithstanding therefore, I retain full confidence in our minister resident at Madrid,⁴⁰ who is charged with powers as Commissioner plenipotentiary, I nominate Thomas Pinckney, to be Envoy Extraordinary of the U.S. to his Catholic Majesty, for the purpose of negotiating of and concerning the navigation of the river Mississippi, and such other matters relative to the confines of their territories and the intercourse to be had thereon, as the mutual interest and general harmony of neighbouring and friendly nations require, should be precisely adjusted and regulated; and of and concerning the general commerce between the said United States and the Kingdoms and Dominions of his said catholic majesty.

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It is believed that by his temporary absence from London in the discharge of these new functions, no injury will arise to the U. States....41

40. William Short.

41. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The omitted part of this message merely nominates some minor officials.